



United States Coast Guard

Marine Inspection Office Europe



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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 05-06

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ANNUAL TESTING OF FIXED FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEMS

During several recent COI and Annual inspections we have found serious deviations from the requirements for the annual testing of Fixed Fire Fighting systems. This MSIB shares these observations to prevent similar deviations and the associated costs of having to retest the systems.

In a significant number of occurrences the servicing report indicated only that the cylinders had been weighed but did not include information on other required items. The applicable sections of subchapters of Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 71.25, 107.235, 132.350, and 176.810, require that the following items associated with installed Fixed Fire Fighting Systems must be tested annually; cylinders are to be weighed, time delays and other alarms tested, piping including all hoses and nozzles examined, and ventilation shutdowns tested. The testing of these components is to be conducted with carbon dioxide, nitrogen, or other nonflammable gas as stated in the manufacturer's instruction manual.

Liquid level gauging of cylinders is not approved as a substitute for weighing of cylinders.

Servicing should be conducted during the annual Coast Guard inspection while the Coast Guard Inspector is on board. If this is not possible, you must discuss other alternatives with Activities Europe while scheduling the examination.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Information Bulletin, please contact CWO4 David Harris or LT Jason Gunning at the above number or address.

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